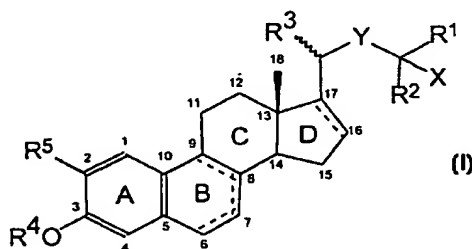




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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/01813 (22) International Filing Date: 11 May 2000 (11.05.00) (30) Priority Data: 9910934.0 11 May 1999 (11.05.99) GB (71) Applicant (for GB only): MARSDEN, John, Christopher [GB/GB]; Frank B. Dehn & Co., 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB). (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR MEDICINE AND CHEMISTRY INC. [US/US]; 49 Amherst Street, Cambridge, MA 02142 (US). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): HESSE, Robert, Henry [US/US]; 6 Sargent Road, Winchester, MA 01890 (US). SETTY, Sundara, Katugam, Srinivasasetty [US/US]; 402 Ringe Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02140 (US). RAMGOPAL, Malathi [US/US]; 8 Garfield Lane East, Andover, MA 01810 (US). KUGABALUSOORIAN, Sanga [LK/US]; 26 Boulder Drive, Burlington, MA 01803 (US).		(74) Agents: MARSDEN, John, Christopher et al.; Frank B. Dehn & Co., 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB). (81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), DM, DZ, EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KR (Utility model), KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

(54) Title: STEROID COMPOUNDS WITH A C17-ALKYL SIDE CHAIN AND AN AROMATIC A-RING FOR USE IN THERAPY

**(57) Abstract**

Compounds of Formula (I) in which: R¹ and R², which may be the same or different, each represents a lower alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group; R³ represents a methyl group having α - or β -configuration; R⁴ represents a hydrogen atom or an etherifying or esterifying group; R⁵ represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a lower alkoxy group; X represents a group OR⁴, wherein R⁴ is as defined above, or a group NR⁶R⁷ wherein R⁶ represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic or araliphatic organic group, or an acyl group comprising an aliphatic, araliphatic or aryl organic group linked to the nitrogen atom by way of a carbonyl group; and R⁷ is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group; Y represents a lower alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene group optionally substituted by a hydroxyl, etherified hydroxyl or esterified hydroxyl group; and the dotted lines signify that double bonds may be present at the 16(17)-position and/or either at the 6(7)- and 8(9)-positions or at the 7(8)-position exhibit potent effects on modulation of cell growth and differentiation, while having low calcaemic activity.